MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) There have been complaints from time to time from the users of VSAT regarding functioning of VSAT. Two main sources of problem were failure of power supply units and some non-functioning Radio Frequency (RF) units in a specific batch on arrival. Such complaints were/are attended to promptly and faults have since been rectified. Installation, operation and maintenance of VSATs is the responsibility of the Education & Research Network (ERNET) Project of the Department of Electronics.

(c) Contract were given in June, 1996 by National Centre for Software Technology (NCST), on behalf of, and on the direction of Project ERNET of Department of Electronics, for maintenance of VSAT Equipments to a private party namely M/s Hughes Escorts Communications Ltd., New Delhi who are the Indian subsidiary of the principal supplier of the equipment with expertise and nationwide network to undertake the job. These contracts are coming into operation progressively and complaints are being attended to meet the requirement of users.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Problems of Western States

628. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since worked out any comprehensive and well-integrated programme to deal with speical problems of Western States viz. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, particularly the economic development in the tribal and rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the specific steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PRORGAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The Central Government have not prepared any specific comprehensive and integrated programme to deal with the special problems of the Western States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to formulate and implement the development programmes in their States. The States are, however, assisted by the Central Government through Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes including Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for the economic development in the tribal areas and through poverty Alleviation Programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) etc. for rural areas. In addition the Area Development Programmes like Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme (DDP), Hill Area Development Programme in the identified areas of all the States including Western States are also implemented with the

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Mega Power Projects in the Country

629. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mega Power Projects with capacity of over 1000 MW being executed in the country;

(b) the location of those projects, State-wise, and the capacity thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to change their policy with regard to implementation of such mega power projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES: (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) The details of power projects with capacity of